

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 491

By Moore

A RESOLUTION to recognize Father Tom Bielawa on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, the strength of this State and the sense of community shared by its citizenry is fostered by Tennessee's churches and the many individuals who dedicate their lives in service to those churches; together, they serve as the rock-solid foundation upon which our lives, our communities, our families, and our friendships can be built; and

WHEREAS, Father Tom Bielawa is one such individual who has dedicated nearly thirty-seven years of his life in service to the Catholic priesthood; and

WHEREAS, Father Bielawa will soon be taking a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, following his ordination on September 1, 1972, Father Bielawa has served a number of churches; his service to the Hispanic Ministry has led him to serve churches in Columbia, South America, Cashion, Arizona, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, for the past seven years, Father Tom Bielawa has stood as the pastor of St. Lawrence Church in Joelton and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Springfield, bringing to the post his welcoming spirit and encouragement; and

WHEREAS, Father Bielawa's service to God and His people brought comfort to those in need and his dedication has been tireless. On his days off, he often said Mass at the Women's Prison in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Father Bielawa exemplifies a spirit and allegiance to church and community and demonstrates the finest qualities of humanity in his everyday life; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Father Tom Bielawa has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and his parishioners; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Father Tom Bielawa our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.